

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06859 121638Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 SCA-01 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 949

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI, PINS, PFOR, SHUM, SREF

SUBJ: GOC ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF 100 DETAINEES

REF: A) SANTIAGO 6787; B) SANTIAGO 6528 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: GOC ANNOUNCED NOV 11 RELEASE INTO EXILE OF 100 SECURITY DETAINEES, WITH MORE TO FOLLOW ONCE THIS GROUP IS PLACED. NONE OF SENIOR-LEVEL DAWSON ISLAND/ RITOQUE GROUP IS INCLUDED. GOC ALSO PROVIDED EIGHT-POINT MEMO ON MECHANICS OF RELEASE WHICH IS RESPONSIVE TO CONCERN EXPRESSED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING NATIONWIDE SPEECH EVENING NOV 11, INTERIOR MINISTER GEN BENAVIDES REPORTED ON MEETING HELD EARLIER IN DAY WITH REPS ON ICRC, ICEM, AND CHILEAN COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES. LIST OF 100 PERSONS WHOM GOC IS WILLING TO FREE IMMEDIATELY WAS ANNOUNCED, WITH GOC TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LISTS ONCE THESE 100 ARE PLACED ABROAD.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 06859 121638Z

BENAVIDES UNDERLINED THAT ALL OF THESE 100 ARE "DETAINED

UNDER STATE OF SIEGE REGULATIONS/ (WHAT WE HAVE BEEN CALLING CATEGORY I). BENAVIDES ADDED: "THOSE WHO ARE BEING PROCESSED (CATEGORY II) OR ARE SERVING SENTENCES (CATEGORY III) WILL BE HANDLED IN A SECOND PHASE, SINCE THE COMPLEXITY OF THEIR SITUATION MUST BE STUDIED AND RESOLVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT LEGAL NORMS." BENAVIDES SPECIFICALLY STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE FIRST HUNDRED "WILL NOT CONSTITUTE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WILL LEAVE CHILE." MINISTER STATED THAT THIS ACTION SHOWS GOC IS KEEPING ITS PROMISE TO RELEASE PRISONERS, FIRST ANNOUNCED BY CHIEF OF STATE PINOCHET TWO MONTHS EARLIER ON SEPTEMBER 11, IN SPITE OF USSR/ CUBAN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PINOCHET'S CHALLENGE AND RELEASE THEIR OWN PRISONERS. BENAVIDES REPEATED NOW-STANDARD GOC CALL TO USSR/ CUBA TO GO AND DO LIKEWISE. HE STRESSED GOC IS NOT RESPONDING TO FOREIGN PRESSURE IN PROCEEDING WITH RELEASE PROGRAM.

3. BENAVIDES ALSO HANDED INTERNATIONAL REPS AN EIGHT-POINT MEMO ON MECHANICS FOR RELEASE. POINTS INCLUDE:

1. GOC WILL PROVIDE THESE ORGANIZATIONS WITH LISTS OF PERSONS WHO CAN BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM.

2. GOC LISTS WILL CONTAIN AT LEAST 100 NAMES AT A TIME; AS SOON AS THOSE ON ONE LIST ARE PLACED, GOC WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER.

3. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME, AND FULL GOC COOPERATION, TO "SURVEY, CLASSIFY, AND RELOCATE OVERSEAS" BENEFICIARIES OF PROGRAM.

4. ONLY THOSE PERSONS WHO VOLUNTARILY WANT TO LEAVE CHILE, AS CERTIFIED BY ICRC, WILL BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM.

5. GOC WILL ENSURE THAT REPS OF APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS CAN MEET PRIVATELY WITH DETAINEES; ALSO THAT FAMILY MEMBERS CAN SEE DETAINEES BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE.

6. DETAINEES MAY BE RELEASED INTO CUSTODY OF PARTICIPATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 06859 121638Z

ORGANIZATIONS AS NECESSARY FOR PROCESSING.

7. GOC WILL ALLOW FAMILY MEMBERS OF DETAINEES TO DEPART CHILE IF THEY WISH, EITHER AT TIME OF DETAINEE'S DEPARTURE OR SUBSEQUENTLY.

8. GOC WILL NOT INTERVENE IN SELECTION OF WHAT COUNTRIES DETAINEES ARE SENT TO, THIS BEING EXCLUSIVE

FUNCTION OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, GOC STATES ITS OPINION THAT MOST SHOULD GO TO "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. FURTHER, GOC RECOMMENDS THAT, ALTHOUGH THESE PERSONS HAVE ACTED AGAINST CHILEAN INTERNAL SECURITY, THEY BE ALLOWED TO WORK AND SUPPORT THEMSELVES ONCE OVERSEAS BUT BE ENJOINED FROM PARTICIPATING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES "SO AS NOT TO CAUSE A LOSS OF PRESTIGE TO PARTICIPATING AGENCIES."

4. COMMENT: MEMO IS OBVIOUSLY RESPONSIVE TO CONCERN BY ICRC OVER NORMS TO BE USED IN PROGRAM (REF B), AND SHOWS CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY TOWARD ICRC CONCERN. OVERSEAS PLACEMENT OF THESE PERSONS HAS PROVED TO BE DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING, SINCE FEW COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN RECEIVING MORE CHILEAN EXILES/ REFUGEES. CONSEQUENTLY, THIS GROUP OF 100, AND LATER ONES, MAY ACTUALLY DEPART IN A TRICKLE RATHER THAN AS A GROUP.

5. OUR PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF LIST OF 100 (COMPLETE LIST TO FOLLOW BY SEPTEL) SHOWS NO RPT NO SENIOR-LEVEL PERSONS FROM DAWSON ISLAND/RITOQUE GROUP IS INCLUDED. TWO BEST KNOWN NAMES ARE MANUEL CABIESES EDITOR OF DEFUNCT EXTREME LEFTIST "PUNTO FINAL", AND NAHUM CASTRO, LEADER OF EXTREME LEFT FAR TERRORIST GROUP WHICH WAS BROKEN BY ALLENDE GOVT IN 1971. BRUNO VON EHRENBURG, LEADER OF QUASI-RELIGIOUS SECT SILO, IS INCLUDED. OUR FIRST READING REVEALS ONLY ONE PERSON ON LIST ABOUT WHOM WE HAVE RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL OR OTHER INQUIRIES FROM US. (EUGENIO DA VIA FERREIRA -SEPTEL).
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